



New Mexico **NEWS**



Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
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BLM / State Issue Draft Environmental Impact Statement For Public Review and Comment

The Bureau of Land Management and State of New Mexico have completed a draft Environmental Impact Statement on standards to be used to judge the health of approximately 13.5 million acres of BLM managed public land in New Mexico. The draft also identifies livestock grazing guidelines that would be used where the grazing practices are currently preventing the standards from being achieved.

The team that developed the draft was composed of BLM, State and county members. The BLM and the State along with nine cooperating counties worked together to assess the effects of adopting standards for public land health and guidelines for livestock grazing on BLM lands. In releasing the draft document, BLM State Director Michelle Chávez lauded the efforts of its partners in working with the BLM on this project. Chávez said, "This is the first time we have had a full partnership with the State. In addition, nine counties were identified as cooperating agencies."

"Lieutenant Governor Walter Bradley and I encourage interested individuals to read the draft report and make comments to the BLM regarding the various standards and guidelines proposed in the alternatives," Chávez said. Ultimately, the final decision will be incorporated into eight BLM resource management plans and define how BLM will administer the public lands in New Mexico.

The draft document has been mailed to counties, organizations, state agencies and interested individuals. The draft document contains information about the public review process and the hearing schedule. Public hearings are scheduled throughout March in Crownpoint, Farmington, Cuba, Española, Taos, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Deming, Albuquerque, Alamogordo, Carlsbad, and Roswell. There are limited copies of the document available at BLM offices in Albuquerque, Socorro, Farmington, Taos, Roswell, Carlsbad, Las Cruces and Santa Fe.

Comments will be accepted until May 17, 1999.